

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 SSM-03 NEAE-00 SSC-01 /061 W  
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P R 271538Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6388  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMSCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS  
SUBJECT: DAYAN APPOINTMENT MAY BE REVERSED

1. ISRAEL RADIO REPORTED THIS AFTERNOON THAT LIBERAL PARTY LEADER SIMCHA ERHLICH HAS ASKED DAYAN TO DECLINE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PORTFOLIO. THIS IS THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THE UPROAR GENERATED BY BEGIN'S SURPRISE MOVE. ERHLICH WAS APPARENTLY SPEAKING ONLY FOR THE LIBERAL PARTY AND NOT THE LIKUD BUT HIS ADVICE HAS BEEN ECHOED IN ALL QUARTERS. YESTERDAY ERHLICH WAS REPORTEDLY SATISFIED WITH THE APPOINTMENT BUT BY THIS MORNING, FOLLOWING A STORMY LIBERAL PARTY MEETING, HE WAS QUOTED AS SAYING, "I WASN'T EXCITED ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT FROM THE START."

2. WEIZMAN HAS CONFIRMED TO US THAT BEIGN HAS AGREED TO RECONSIDER THE NOMINATION AND A MEETING OF THE LIKUD EXECUTIVE IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 29. MEANWHILE, DAYAN HAS PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED  
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IF BEGIN CHANGES HIS MIND. THUS, THE STAGE HAS BEEN SET FOR REVERSING THE MOVE. WEIZMAN ADMITTED THAT IF HE HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN DAYAN OR THE DMC, HE WOULD CHOOSE THE LATTER.

3. BEGIN, WEIZMAN AND THE TINY CIRCLE WHO WERE IN ON THE TALKS WITH AYAN CLEARLY MISCALCULATED THE STRENGTH

OF THE REACTION--AMONG THE PUBLIC, THE PRESS, AND WITHIN THE LIKUD AND DMC PARTIES, AND THEY ALSO HANDLED THE AFFAIR WITH AN EXTRAORDINARY LACK OF POLITICAL DEFTNESS. MOST OF THE PRESS HAS COME DOWN VERY HARD ON DAYAN, EVEN IF THE PAPERS ARE LESS CAUSTIC TOWARD BEGIN. THERE IS TALK OF PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS BEING ORGANIZED. YADIN HAS DECLARED THAT UNLESS THE DAYAN APPOINTMENT IS RESCINDED, DMC/LIKUD NEGOTIATIONS ON A COALITION ARE AT AN END.

4. IT APPEARS THAT THE ONLY UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR THE MOVE COMES FROM THOSE CLOSE TO BEGIN AND THE NRP-- ALTHOUGH DISSENTING VOICES ARE ALSO HEARD FROM THE RELIGIOUS PARTY. MK DAVID GLASS, FOR ONE, IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC AND REPORTS THAT ABOUT HALF HIS PARTY OPPOSES THE NOMINATION.

5. WHETHER THE NOMINATION STICKS OR NOT, BEGIN HAS PROBABLY EXPERIENCED HIS FIRST POLITICAL SETBACK SINCE THE LIKUD PULLED OFF ITS STUNNING ELECTION UPSET. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THE DMC WILL NOT JOIN THE COALITION UNLESS DAYAN IS DROPPED; AND EVEN IF HE IS, ILL-FEELING WITHIN THE LIKUD AND BETWEEN THAT PARTY AND DMC WILL BE LONG INPASSING. THE RIFT IN THE LIKUD SEEMS TO BE RUNNING ALONG PARTY LINES, WITH HERUTNIKS EITHER APPROVING OR SUBDUED IN THEIR REACTION AND LIBERALS OPPOSED. BEGIN'S RELATIONS WITH ARYE DULZIN, WHO ON THE VERY NIGHT OF THE DAYAN ANNOUNCEMENT HAD DECLARED HIS OWN INTEREST IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOREIGN MINISTRY PORTFOLIO, WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE THE SAME.

6. AS FOR DAYAN, HE APPEARS TO BE FINISHED WITH THE LABOR PARTY AND, IF BEGIN RECANTS, HIS POLITICAL CAREER WOULD LIKEWISE BE AT AN END. WHY DID HE ACCEPT BEGIN'S OFFER? ISOLATED IN THE ALIGNMENT, HE PROBABLY SAW IN HIS SWITCH TO THE LIKUD HIS LAST AND ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO CENTER STAGE. HE MAY EVEN HAVE CONSIDERED AS A POSSIBILITY THE PROSPECT OF EMERGING AS HEAD OF THE LIKUD IF BEGIN'S HEALTH SHOULD DICTATE AN EARLY DEPARTURE FROM ACTIVITY.

7. WHY DID BEGIN DO IT? AS YEDIOT AHARONOT NOTED IN ITS EDITORIAL, BEGIN HAS ALWAYS FELT AN AFFINITY WITH DAYAN AND HAS LONG DREAMED OF CO-OPTING HIM FROM LABOR. WEIZMAN TOLD US THAT BEGIN HONESTLY THOUGHT ONLY OF THE MAN, NOT THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS, AND THAT HE HAD WANTED

DAYAN TO STRENGTHEN HIS CABINET'S ACCEPTANCE  
ABROAD. BEGIN PROBABLY FEELS THAT NO ONE IN  
HIS OWN PARTY CAN MATCH DAYAN'S QUALIFICATIONS.  
AWARE OF THE DIFFICULT DAYS AHEAD FOR ISRAEL,  
BEGIN THOUGHT THAT OTHER CONSIDERATIONS HAD TO BE  
SUBORDINATED TO BRINGING INTO HIS TEAM THE  
BEST TALEN AVAILABLE.  
LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** LOBBYING, PARTY LEADERS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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